

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0414

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, EAID

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 27-29 JUNE MEETING ON SOUTH PACIFIC
COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (SPCEMP)

REF: SUVA 0772

1. EMBASSY MAY REPLY TO JOINT LETTER FROM SOUTH PACIFIC
COMMISSION (SPC) AND SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION (SPEC) THAT THE USG IS INTERESTED IN THE
PROPOSED JUNE 27-29 SPCEMP MEETING AND WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN
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MORE INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.
TO THAT END, DEPT. SUGGESTS THAT EMBASSY CONSIDER POSSIBIL-
ITY OF AUTHORIZING EMBASSY OFFICIAL TO REPRESENT USG AT
SPCEMP MEETING IN NOUMEA AND SO INFORMING MEETING ORGAN-
IZERS IN REPLY LETTER.

2. THE MEETING WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

FOR THE USG TO INDICATE ITS SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPC AND TO OBTAIN BETTER APPRECIATION OF INTERESTS, NEEDS AND POSSIBLE PLANS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR INDIVIDUAL AND POSSIBLE JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS. PRINCIPAL ROLE OF US PARTICIPANT WOULD BE TO DETERMINE AND REPORT ON THE ABOVE. DEPT. AND AID/W WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN RECEIVING REPORT AND EMBASSY VIEWS AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING.

3. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY CONSIDER SENDING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ROBERT CRAIG TO THE MEETING AS THE MEETING AGENDA APPEARS TO FOCUS ON THE AID RELATED ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT CRAIG PLANS TO BE IN U.S. AT THAT TIME SO IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO TAKE PART. IN THIS CASE, EMBASSY MAY WANT TO DESIGNATE ANOTHER OFFICER TO PARTICIPATE.

4. IN ADDITION TO OUR OVERALL INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT OF THE SPC, U.S. PARTICIPANT SHOULD BE GUIDED BY FACT THAT ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION ARE NOW A MAJOR AID CONCERN FOR PROGRAMMING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS HAVE ENCOURAGED AID TO SEEK OUT, FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROJECTS. A NEW SECTION 118 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT (FAA) AUTHORIZES AID "... TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF

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LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO PROTECT AND MANAGE THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES ..."

5. CONGRESS IS NOW CONSIDERING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FAA TO REQUIRE AID TO ASSESS AND REPORT TO CONGRESS ON PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES IN AID ASSISTED COUNTRIES. WITHIN AID, A RECENT POLICY PAPER ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT STATES THAT AID WILL BE DEVELOPING A NEW CATEGORY OF PROJECTS THAT WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR REFORESTATION, WATERSHED PROTECTION, WILDLIFE PRESERVATION, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING AND POLICY FORMULATION. CHRISTOPHER

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